

# Alexandria Herald

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LUME CXI.—No. 153

## Continuation of Testimony Heard Before Special Committee of City Council to Examine into Electric Light Situation.

Testimony in Behalf of Alexandria Electric Co.

(Continued from Page 4)

Mr. Harlow: Mr. Betts now being present, Mr. Kirby, do you still refuse to be cross-examined on your previous testimony?

Mr. Kirby: He has nothing to do with me.

Mr. Harlow: I desire to have this statement spread on the record. When this committee first met, I requested the privilege of being allowed, as attorney for the company, to be present at the hearings, and cross-examine the witnesses; the committee unanimously agreed and I was notified to attend the first meeting of the committee. I attended the meeting and was then informed that the committee had changed its mind and desired to hold sessions behind closed doors for a while and that later they would allow me to be present.

Mr. Harlow: Mr. Harlow, you failed to have an interview with me on the subject.

Mr. Harlow: You were not present when I appeared before the committee when they met for the first hearing.

The Chairman: Probably the reason he did not see you, Mr. Harlow, was because he had seen three of the members and that constituted a majority.

Mr. Harlow: I want to content myself so far as Mr. Kirby is concerned by saying that we are prepared to show that many of the statements Mr. Kirby is reported to have made are not true, that other statements were made on information and belief, and made about things of which he could not have had any knowledge. I assume that the committee's report was made on Mr. Kirby's testimony, and I should think the committee would be interested in finding out whether those statements are true or not, or whether his testimony should be entirely thrown out.

Mr. Fisher: I move that Mr. Harlow be given opportunity to prove what statements made by Mr. Kirby are untrue. He has his witnesses here.

The Chairman: I have a letter here from Mr. Harlow in which he states that he would like to have recalled Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Kirby and Mr. Betts. I have all been notified in accordance with the request in that Mr. Kirby was asked to attend here tonight, as the committee requested. What his actions are, of course, and we cannot dictate.

Mr. Fisher: Now, I renew my motion that Mr. Harlow be given permission to prove what statements made by Mr. Kirby are untrue.

The Chairman: Thereupon put the question, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. Spinks: I am satisfied that all the witnesses be sworn, if that is necessary. I think this committee has that power. We are holding a investigation, and I think it is proper that the Chairman thereupon put the motion.

Mr. Harlow: If Mr. Spinks in having these witnesses put under oath, I show that we will then have power to recall Mr. Kirby.

Mr. Spinks (interrupting): I think so.

The Chairman: Are you ready to be sworn?

Mr. Harlow: We would like to be sworn, if the committee will recall Mr. Kirby.

Mr. Spinks: We will if we have the right to do that.

The Chairman: Have we the right?

Mr. Fisher: You can assume the right. If the witnesses object they state their objections.

Mr. Harlow: Do I understand that these witnesses on oath, I am to put them under oath?

Mr. Harlow: Then what is the objection to putting them under oath? You did not put your witnesses under oath.

Mr. Spinks: I thought that it was because these witnesses were sworn to be sworn, that I should say the same.

Mr. Fisher: I move that it be left to the discretion of each witness whether he will be sworn or not.

The Chairman: That is for Mr. Harlow.

Mr. Harlow: I desire to say that all of the witnesses we have here are perfectly willing to be sworn, provided the witnesses which have been previously testified before this committee, it is impossible at this time to determine whether or not they have those witnesses sworn or not, and I suggest that the testimony of those who are here present be taken, and if your witnesses wish afterwards and if your witnesses these witnesses will swear to theirs.

And thereupon Mr. R. C. Fought, who appeared at the request of the Alexandria Electric Light Company, on interrogatories propounded to him, testified as follows:—

Mr. Harlow: Please state your name and occupation.

Mr. Fought: R. C. Fought. I am a representative of the General Electric Company.

The following questions by Mr. Harlow:

Question: What experience have you had in the electrical business?

Answer: For twelve years I have been with the General Electric Company, having been for two years of that time in their factory and engaged mostly in working on arc lamps.

The Chairman: Do you mean to say that these lamps are giving the light they should give?

Mr. Fought: As explained by my testimony.

The Chairman: Have you seen the lamps and do you know that they are giving the proper light?

Mr. Fought: I have not seen them. I can't tell that.

The Chairman: That is what we are talking about.

Mr. Fought: This contract was entered into on the 9th day of August, 1906. Can you state whether or not the Port Wayne lamp we have here was on that date considered a standard lamp?

Mr. Fought: It was.

Question: With 7.5 ampere coils would it make any difference, so far as the effectiveness is concerned, whether this was an old or a new lamp?

Answer: None at all. If you put a certain amount of energy between the carbon burners of any arc lamp the result in candle power would be the same, assuming that the globes were in a proper state of cleanliness.

Mr. Fought: There seems to be a pretty general impression in the city of Alexandria that the old Schuyler lamp, which was in use before the present lamps were installed, gave a better or more effective light than the lamps at present in use. Do you think that this is true?

Answer: I do not think that any type of open lamp gives a light equal to an enclosed lamp.

Question: Is it not a fact that while the old Schuyler light was bright and probably more brilliant or dazzling near the lamp itself, the illuminating radius was less?

Answer: It was. The old type of open lamp dispersed its maximum light at about 60 degrees below the horizontal, which made a very brilliant illumination in close proximity to the lamp.

The Chairman: You mean it did not distribute the light?

Mr. Fought: Exactly. The alternating arc lamp of the enclosed type distributes its maximum candle power at say 40 degrees below the horizontal, and between the horizontal and the 40 degree angle the light is superior to the light of the open arc of 5 ampere type between those same angles, and the most effective light for street illumination is delivered at angles between the horizontal and 40 degrees.

Mr. Harlow: Assuming that these lamps are 7.5 amperes, and knowing as I understand you that the system is a 7.5 ampere system, do you or do you not consider that those two lamps in a room, or in a street, or in a position to fully comply with the requirements of this contract?

Mr. Fought: I should say they did.

Mr. Harlow: Mr. Fisher, do you desire to cross-examine the witness, I should like to say that while we were not permitted to cross-examine any witness who has previously testified, we are perfectly willing that you cross-examine ours, if you wish to do so.

Mr. Spinks: We have met before.

Mr. Fought: Yes, sir. Mr. Hill, Mr. Harlow and myself met you in the New Willard Hotel.

Mr. Fought: Yes, sir.

Mr. Spinks: Were you not then introduced to us as the representative of the Port Wayne people?

Mr. Fought: No, sir. I never worked for any electrical concern but the General Electric Company.

Mr. Spinks: I want to read from a letter of Mr. Betts to you, when he was representing the Alexandria Electric Company. (Reading) For the next few months, at least, I shall be charged of all physical matters connected with the Alexandria Electric Company and I shall be in the factory working the most of the time on arc lamps, and I have been traveling for them about ten years.

Question: Those two years that you spent in the factory, are they the two years that you remember that you had with the arc lighting business?

Answer: No, sir; continuously since that time, besides having had a scientific education previously.

Question: Explain the principal parts of the enclosed Port Wayne arc lamp.

Answer: The series coils, shunt coils and adjusting spring, the clutch and upper carbon holder will be considered the essential working parts of the lamp.

Question: What is the series coil?

Answer: That is the coil through which the main current of the circuit passes and lifts the carbon.

Question: How long have you been with that company?

Answer: About twelve years. For two years of that time I was in the factory working the most of the time on arc lamps, and I have been traveling for them about ten years.

Question: Those two years that you spent in the factory, are they the two years that you remember that you had with the arc lighting business?

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Mr. Spinks: You have been asked about the quantity of these lights. I want to ask you, you are an expert, don't you think that a company with actual equipment on the street is badly conducted if the company did not have a globe to substitute in the place of one globe that they wanted to take off?

Mr. Fought: It would look like that if they were unable to substitute a lamp in case one got out of order it would look so.

Mr. Spinks: We carried a lamp to Washington last night, and they only gave us part of a lamp because they had no inner globe to substitute for the one they took down, nor an outer globe, and we have not got that, and it was stated that if a globe was to break on the street that they would have no other to replace it. You say you don't know anything about the plant?

Mr. Fought: I have not been into their store room. I don't know anything about their supplies, of course.

Mr. Spinks: You were living some of the time in the city of Alexandria, was that so?

Mr. Fought: Of only one of the lamps that was on their test rack up there.

Mr. Spinks: They say they could not run low voltage lamps at 6.6 amperes on these high voltage currents; yet if they should do that they say the lamps would not burn. Now if several of these lamps go out on the street here and stay out for two or three hours, and you have them put up again they go out again, would not that be an indication of bad management?

Mr. Fought: It might or it might not. A short circuit on the telephone line might put out the lamp.

Mr. Spinks: Suppose you would fix one, and then fix another, and then the one that had fixed would go out again, would that be any better than the others? Our controversy has been as to the lamps; that is what it is about now. You state that it has recently been considered that the 7 1/2 ampere lamp is a nominal 2,000 candle power lamp.

Mr. Fought: Yes, sir, for the last three or four years. Something like that.

Mr. Spinks: This contract was entered into with the city prior to that time by the Alexandria Electric Company, was it not?

Mr. Fought: I don't know that. The only thing that I know about the contract is that section there that I have just heard Mr. Harlow read in there that the city is to receive a 7 1/2 ampere lamp which shall fulfill the terms of this contract, have you?

Mr. Fought: I have not read the contract at all. I don't know what it is.

Mr. Spinks: You don't know anything about the Alexandria Electric light plant, do you?

Mr. Fought: The only thing that I know about the plant is what I have told you here. I have inspected the regulators as I told you and the plant; I don't know anything about the operating of the plant.

Mr. Fought: I am only there as an expert on those matters.

Questions by Mr. Fisher:

Mr. Fisher: How often do you come to Alexandria?

Mr. Fought: I make no stated trips. I was here about the first of June, and previous to that time it was probably a year since I was here.

Question: How long did you stay there?

Answer: During the day.

Question: What is your connection or association with the Alexandria Electric Company?

Answer: None, except that I call on Mr. Weller as a traveling salesman of the General Electric Company.

Question: How long have you been with that company?

Answer: About twelve years. For two years of that time I was in the factory working the most of the time on arc lamps, and I have been traveling for them about ten years.

Question: Those two years that you spent in the factory, are they the two years that you remember that you had with the arc lighting business?

Answer: No, sir; continuously since that time, besides having had a scientific education previously.

Question: Explain the principal parts of the enclosed Port Wayne arc lamp.

Answer: The series coils, shunt coils and adjusting spring, the clutch and upper carbon holder will be considered the essential working parts of the lamp.

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Answer: The series coils, shunt coils and adjusting spring, the clutch and upper carbon holder will be considered the essential working parts of the lamp.

carbon simply lights and refuses to arc, what is the matter with the lamp?

Answer: That is too much for me. It might be one of a number of things.

Question: If you take the 6.6 ampere lamp and change the coils to 7.5 without adjusting the other parts of the lamp, would that make it?

Answer: If the current is changed it would not be readjusted to a 7.5 ampere current. It would not need re-adjustment. The shunt coil and spring would do what was necessary.

Question: In order to change these lamps there would be no change except in the series coil?

Answer: That is all.

Question: You have never been in town at night?

Answer: No, sir.

Question: How long were you in town on the first of June?

Answer: Possibly a couple of hours in the afternoon. I don't remember how long exactly.

Question: You say you inspected this plant and the equipment. What inspection did you make?

Answer: I made an inspection of the transformers, and of the regulators and of the lamp itself.

Question: You did not make any examination or inspection of the lamps on the street?

Answer: Not while it was on the street. I examined a lamp in the test room up there. I examined one of the globes.

Question: Mr. Harlow asked you after reading a clause of this company's contract with the city, if a 7.5 ampere lamp would comply with the conditions of that contract, and you answered that the lamps are operated as 7.5 ampere lamps, is that so?

Answer: Yes, sir.

Question: You are assuming that these lamps are operated at 7.5 amperes?

Answer: Yes, sir. That would be necessary in any statement.

Question: You have never seen the watt meters in operation, have you?

Mr. Spinks: No, sir. I might add that the meter inspection would determine nothing about the light.

Question: Could you go to the plant in the day time and examine the meters and tell what they were doing at night?

Answer: No, sir.

Question: You speak of 7.5 ampere lamps consuming 450 watts—

Answer (interrupting): I don't think so. I said any lamp consuming 450 watts would be a nominal 2,000 candle power lamp.

Question: You don't know whether these lamps here on the streets are properly adjusted?

Answer: I have not made any inspection of them, and these people are not going to suit yourself, give the other amount that would be necessary to make 450 watts.

Answer: It would be the product of the 7 1/2 amperes into the volts across the terminals of the lamp into the power factor.

Question: If there are 7 1/2 amperes to obtain 450 watts, what would have to be the voltage?

Answer: In order to produce that result, 60 volts.

Question: If it were operated at 40 volts what would be the results?

Answer: There would be a reduction in the relative ratio.

Question: If it were operated at 40 volts what would be the result?

Answer: The lamp would not operate at 40 volts.

Question: Can you operate 6.6 ampere lamps on the same series with 7.5 ampere lamps?

Answer: Not satisfactorily. You might be able to adjust the lamps down in voltage and get them to operate. The effect would be this if you put 6.6 ampere lamps and 7.5 lamps on the same circuit the lamps would draw too much voltage. The wattage would run way up. Whether you could cut the voltage enough to operate satisfactorily would depend on the individual lamp.

Question: You say you saw the log sheet for two months?

Answer: Yes, for a number of months. For those months that I read off for you just now.

Question: When did you see that?

Answer: Today.

Question: You state that a 7 1/2 ampere lamp properly adjusted would consume 450 watts.

Answer: Adjusted with a terminal voltage of 78 volts, was it?

Question: And if not properly adjusted it would not consume that?

Answer: It might consume more or might consume less.

Question: You also stated assuming that the globes were in a proper state of cleanliness?

Answer: It is the same as a dirty window.

Question: I understand you to say you examined one of the lamps of this company. What lamp?

Answer: I could not say what lamp. It was a lamp on their test rack up there.

Question: Not one on the street?

Answer: I was told it came off the street and was in there for adjustment.

Mr. Spinks: Mr. Hill asked about the lamps the other night. He said that there is at the present time a lamp on the market that would carry out the contract made by the Alexandria Electric Company with the city.

Mr. Betts: It depends on what you would—

Mr. Hill (interrupting): Can the Alexandria Electric Company have a lamp made that will carry out the contract made with the city?

Mr. Betts: Yes, sir.

Mr. Spinks: Now, I want to ask, could your company, the General Electric Company, make a 2,000 candle power lamp?

Mr. Fought: It could not. Well, I will say that they could make that lamp, but it would have to be a twenty ampere lamp.

Mr. Spinks: It could be made?

Mr. Fought: Of course, if you want to pay for it.

Mr. Fisher: Do you sell to the Alexandria Electric Company?

Mr. Fought: Very little. I suppose they have a hundred or two hundred dollars in the last couple of years.

Mr. Harlow: Have you ever heard of any company making such a lamp as a 2,000 candle power lamp?

Mr. Fought: No, sir; not for street lighting.

Questions by Mr. Harlow:

Mr. Harlow: Have you ever known such a lamp to be used for street lighting purposes?

Mr. Fought: No, sir.

Question: Would it be possible for this company to have such a lamp made and put it in use at the price of \$75.00 per light per year, and would in your opinion a contract which called for an enclosed series alternating arc of 2,000 candle power costing \$75.00 per light per year, have possibly meant a lamp of 2,000 actual candle power?

Mr. Fisher: I object to that question.

Mr. Spinks: I don't object to the question.

The Chairman: I think that question is all right. Let him answer it.

Mr. Harlow: The contract with the city provides that it shall pay \$75 per light per year for an enclosed series alternating arc of 2,000 candle power, considering the light which it would be possible to furnish under that rate, could this have meant that the lamp was to be 2,000 actual candle power?

Mr. Fought: It could not. No company could furnish that light at that price unless they wanted to give money to the city.

Question: Could you make a series enclosed lamp of twenty amperes and put it in the globe without breaking the globe?

Answer: No, sir; I was just about to state that.

Question: Until the glass manufacturers are able to improve the globes so that they will stand it, it is practically impossible to use such a lamp of the enclosed type if it was made?

Answer: Yes, sir.

Mr. Spinks: You were asked if a 2,000 candle power lamp could be made and put on these streets at \$75 per year each at a profit. Do you know anything about the other conditions or privileges granted under this contract?

Mr. Fought: No, sir.

Mr. Spinks: There could be other conditions in there under which it would be possible to furnish this lamp at that price at a profit?

Mr. Fought: Any sort of conditions could be established.

Mr. Spinks: We were to get 2,000 candle power lamps at that figure and this company was to have the privilege of using the power of the city and the streets, and to furnish the surrounding country with power and light, and we get 5 per cent of the gross receipts from the current sold in the city and nothing from the outside, and these people are not to pay any taxes. That might be a pretty good deal.

Mr. Fought: I understand you to say that there are no street lights made of 2,000 candle power.

Mr. Fought: Not to my knowledge. Not actual candle power.

Mr. Fisher: In your direct examination you stated that no street lighting was used as ever 2,000 candle power?

Mr. Fought: For street lighting, you will remember I said.

Mr. Fisher: What did mean by the word generally?

Mr. Fought: In commercial use.

Mr. Fisher: You said no lamp ever gave that light for street lighting purposes?

Mr. Fought: That is what I mean.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Harlow asked you this question if you could furnish 2,000 candle power lamps at \$75 per year, assuming that the bid was submitted to the City Council of Alexandria agreeing upon the part of the bidder, on his own initiative, that they would furnish a 2,000 candle power lamp at \$75 per year, from my understanding of your answer the bidder had no intention of complying with the terms of his bid?

Mr. Harlow: Are you assuming the actual conditions of this contract?

Mr. Fisher: Yes, sir, the actual facts, we assume in our possession the terms of the contract, and we assume those terms. I will furnish so many arc lights of 2,000 candle power, and so forth.

Mr. Harlow: We have the bid.

Mr. Fisher: The city has the original bid in its possession.

Mr. Harlow: Here is a copy of it: "I will give for the franchise and the use of the electric plant and equipment" a much, provided he receive the franchise for thirty years, and would furnish arc lamps of 2,000 candle power, for which he was to receive \$75 per light per year, the number of lights not to be less than eighty-five. "This proposition is based upon 2,000 candle power arc lamps for street lighting purposes."

Mr. Fisher: Assuming then that the bidder sent in the bid, the bidder had no intention of complying with the terms of the contract?

Mr. Fought: I should say that he intended to furnish the 2,000 candle power lamp, so-called, in common use.

Thereupon Mr. Philander Betts, recalled at the request of the Alexandria Electric Light Company, in answer to interrogatories propounded to him answered as follows:

Questions by Mr. Harlow:

Mr. Harlow: Have you a copy of the recommendations that you made to change the lamps which were then being used to bring them up to what you considered were the requirements of the contract made with the city?

Mr. Betts: I have my letters, yes. What recommendations do you mean?